Food crops productivity in Chhattisgarh and Eastern States

5411. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether low productivity of food crops in the Eastern States and in Chhattisgarh has not allowed the full benefits of green revolution to flow to the farmers of these States; if so, what special steps are envisaged for this region; and

(b) whether Government would consider a special package to be implemented at the earliest, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The productivity of food crops has remained relatively low in these areas in view of the fact that crops and grown under rainfed conditions with no assured irrigation.

However, for increasing production and productivity of food crops in the Eastern States including Chhattisgarh various Centrally Sponsored Schemes were implemented from time to time such as Special Rice Production Programme (SRPP) from 1985-86 to 1988-89, Special Foodgrains Production Programme (SFPP) from 1988-89 to 1989-90, Integrated Programme for Rice Development (IPRD) from 1990-91 to 1993-94 and Integrated Cereals Development Programme Rice (ICDP-Rice) from 1994-95 to Oct., 2000.

From Oct., 2000, these schemes have been merged in Macro Management Mode of Scheme. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for technology transfer, supply of critical inputs and training of farmers.

To improve the productivity of these areas, assured irrigation is required. Government has, therefore, recently started a new scheme of On Farm Water Management for increasing production and productivity of food crops in these areas. Under this scheme assistance is provided to farmers in the form of subsidy up to 30% of the cost of digging shallow tube wells, purchase of pumping sets, lift irrigation projects, etc. The balance 50% will be provided as loan and the beneficiaries' contribution will be limited to 20%. The scheme is being implemented through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The scheme has been launched since 2001-2002 and it will be continued during Tenth Plan Period.